



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

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July 30, 2013

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE COUNTY EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION FOR A GRANT TO THE
LOS ANGELES CONSERVATION CORPS
FOR THE DESCANSO GARDENS OAK WOODLAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
(FIFTH DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$720,000 in County Excess Funds, available to the Fifth District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Department of Parks and Recreation for a grant to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps to fund the development of an oak woodland habitat and trails project at Descanso Gardens.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed Descanso Gardens Oak Woodland Development Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because the project consists of maintenance of existing landscaping, installation of new, small structures, and minor alterations to land for the reasons stated herein and reflected in the record of the Project.
2. Allocate \$720,000 in County Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Department of Parks and Recreation for a grant to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for the Descanso Gardens Oak Woodland Development Project.
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as the Director

of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant in the amount of \$720,000 to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for the Descanso Gardens Oak Woodland Development Project after the Department of Parks and Recreation assigns its right to apply for the funds to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, if applicable conditions have been met, and to administer the grant as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$720,000 in County Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) for a grant to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) for the Descanso Gardens Oak Woodland Development Project.

The proposed project consists of the development of approximately three acres of existing parkland into native Southern California oak woodland habitat, including site preparation and the purchase and installation of oak trees, native plant landscaping, irrigation, native earth and decomposed granite trails, asphalt paving, and seating areas at Descanso Gardens in the Fifth Supervisorial District. The overall project cost is estimated at \$786,000. The recommended \$720,000 of County Excess Funds will be supplemented by private donations in the amount of \$66,000.

The Department of Parks and Recreation, which is a designated recipient of County Excess Funds under the 1996 Proposition, will assign its right to LACC to apply for the funds for the Descanso Gardens Oak Woodland Development Project. In a related item on today's agenda, DPR requests your approval to assign the \$720,000 in County Excess Funds to LACC.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action will further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) by providing natural habitat and recreational access at Descanso Gardens in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The proposed project will be funded with the requested \$720,000 in County Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District and with \$66,000 in private donations.

Sufficient appropriation for the grant, in the amount of \$720,000, is budgeted in the Fifth Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. DPR and LACC have each met this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grant will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District for County projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation would be authorized to award a grant when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed Descanso Gardens Oak Woodland Development Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project, which consists of development of approximately three acres of existing parkland into native Southern California oak woodland habitat, including site preparation and the purchase and installation of oak trees, native plant landscaping, irrigation, native earth and decomposed granite trails, asphalt paving, and seating areas, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that they meet the criteria set forth in Sections 15301 (h), 15303 (e) and 15304 (a) (b) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 1(j), 3 (b), and 4 (a) (c) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the project involves maintenance of and minor alterations to existing landscaping, installation of accessory (appurtenant) structures, grading on land with slope of less than 10 percent, and new landscaping.

The proposed project does not have any expansion of an existing use, and will not involve the removal of healthy, mature trees. Additionally, the proposed project is not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the proposed project's records.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009 only if all applicable conditions of the grant have been met. The Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

These actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by the District but are required so that the LACC may proceed with the oak woodland habitat development project in the Fifth Supervisorial District, if all applicable conditions are met.

CONCLUSION

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

7/30/2013

Page 4

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office, Facilities and Asset Management Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", with a stylized flourish at the end.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JB

WO:LB

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors